

What is claimed is;

1. An optical filter that is provided at an optical path between a photoelectric conversion device which converts a subject image formed at a light-receiving surface thereof to an electrical signal and an optical system which forms the subject image with a light flux from the subject at said photoelectric conversion device, to filter the light flux, comprising:

5 a stage formed at, at least, a portion of an external circumference of the optical filter.

10 Sub a 2. An optical filter according to claim 1, wherein:

15 a plurality of filter layers are laminated along a direction of an optical axis of the light flux that passes through; and

20 said stage is formed by varying a size of a surface of at least one filter layer along a direction perpendicular to the optical axis of the passing light flux from a size of a surface of another filter layer along a direction perpendicular to the optical axis.

25 3. An optical filter according to claim 1, wherein:

said stage is utilized to hold the optical filter.

4. An optical filter according to claim 2, wherein:

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said stage is utilized to hold said optical filter.

5. An optical device comprising:

5 a photoelectric conversion device that converts a subject image formed at a light-receiving surface thereof to an electric signal;

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an optical system that forms the subject image with a light flux from a subject at the light-receiving surface of said photoelectric conversion device;

10 an optical filter that is provided on an optical path between said photoelectric conversion device and said optical system to filter the light flux; and

a holding member that holds said optical filter, wherein:

15 said optical filter comprises a stage formed at, at least, a portion of an external circumference of the optical filter and said stage is utilized to hold said optical filter element with said holding member.

20 6. An optical device according to claim 5, wherein:

said holding member has a spring property and holds said optical filter by pressing said optical filter either toward said photoelectric conversion device or toward said optical system.

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